

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus comprising a treatment housing for treating water, the housing being connected to a reservoir for receiving treated water from the housing, the reservoir containing a heater to heat the treated water to generate steam, controls to start and stop flow of water to be treated through the housing and to switch on the reservoir heater and to stop the flow of water when sanitisation is required, whereby steam may be passed through the apparatus in the reverse direction to the water, the housing having a relief valve for escape of the steam from the reservoir.
2. (Original) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the reservoir is of metal or plastic and can withstand a pressure of at least one bar and a temperature up to 120°C.
3. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the housing is a disposable cartridge.
4. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1 in which the housing contains a heater to heat the water to be treated and a filter between the heater and an outlet from the housing for the treated water.
5. (Original) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 4, which contains one or more perforated meshes or screens between the heater and the filter.
6. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the housing has a probe to detect the water level and the apparatus controls are arranged to switch off incoming water when a predetermined maximum water level is reached, the maximum level leaving a headspace in the housing above the water.

7. (Original) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 6, in which the relief valve for the steam from the reservoir is positioned so as to allow escape from the headspace of steam and volatiles from the treated water.

8. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, which includes a heat exchanger connected to an inlet to the treatment housing whereby untreated water can be passed through the heat exchanger on its way to the treatment housing, the heat exchanger being also connected to an outlet from the treatment housing whereby heated treated water can be passed through the heat exchanger in heat exchange relationship with the incoming untreated water.

9. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the reservoir heater has a wattage of from 1500 to 2500 and the reservoir has a capacity of from 20 to 50 liters.

10. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the reservoir with the heater is a small secondary tank and the apparatus includes a separate larger reservoir downstream of the tank.

11. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the controls are arranged to switch on the reservoir heater at the same time or shortly after flow of untreated water into the housing is stopped.

12. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the pressure relief valve is of the spring-loaded or dead weight type.

13. (Currently Amended) A water treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the pressure relief valve leads to a condenser tube and then a drain.

14. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method of sanitizing water treatment apparatus of the type having a treatment housing for water to be treated and a reservoir for receiving treated water from the treatment housing, the method including the steps of stopping water flow through the apparatus, heating treated water in the reservoir to generate steam, and passing the steam through the apparatus in a reverse direction to a normal treatment water flow direction, whereby sufficient pressure is created by the generation of the steam to pass the steam through the apparatus in the reverse direction to the normal treatment water flow direction.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14, in which the steam is also passed in the direction of water flow from the reservoir to sanitise apparatus downstream of the reservoir.

16. (New) A self-sanitizing water treatment apparatus comprising:
a treatment housing adapted to treat water, the treatment housing having a relief valve;
and
a reservoir in fluid communication with the treatment housing, the reservoir containing a heater;
wherein the water treatment apparatus is configured to transmit treated water from the treatment housing to the reservoir via a conduit in a first direction; and
wherein the water treatment apparatus is configured to generate steam from the treated water in the reservoir by activation of the heater in the reservoir and transmit the steam via the conduit in a second direction opposite the first direction when sanitization is required.